

Nutrition Coordinating Committee (NCC) Meeting Minutes December 2, 1999

WELCOME

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Van S. Hubbard. Dr. Hubbard welcomed all attendees.

The minutes of the October 7, 1999, NCC meeting were approved as circulated. Dr. Hubbard said that minutes for the next few meetings will be both circulated and posted on the DNRC web site.

Links to other nutrition-related websites of federal organizations and committees are both encouraged and solicited.

CURRENT UPDATE OF DNRC ACTIVITIES

1. Dr. Hubbard noted that DNRC Offices have been moved to Rockledge 1, 6705 Rockledge Drive, 8th Floor Suite, Room 8048. A courier will provide daily service to the Rockledge offices, re-routing mail addressed to the Natcher Building.

*2. The *18th Report of the NIH Program in Biomedical and Behavioral Nutrition Research and Training* has organizational descriptions in progress, as well as brief summaries of basic and clinical research and clinical trials.* A draft of the research section will be circulated by the end of January 2000.

3. National Nutrition Month. In the absence of Dr. Pennington, Dr. Hubbard requested suggestions for National Nutrition Month. Committee members were asked to identify nutrition-related activities scheduled for March, so that the information could be disseminated.

*4. HNRIM. Jim Krebs-Smith reported that the HNRIM public query website (<http://hnrin.nih.gov>) had been "hacked." Mr. Krebs Smith will send a request for FY99 data as soon as the OFM request is made; this usually occurs between late November and January.

NATIONAL NUTRITION SUMMIT (FORMERLY IDENTIFIED AS THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION)

Dr. Paul Coates reported that DHHS and USDA are involved in the federal effort for the Summit, which is being held 30 years after the White House Conference on Food, Nutrition and Health. The 1969 White House Conference included

policy makers and the public and addressed, among other issues, chronic disease and the nutrient needs of pregnant women, the elderly, and school children. FY99 congressional language mandated this 1999 conference, which is scheduled for May 30-31, 2000 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C. A two-page proposal was developed in August 1999 and sent to the Domestic Policy Council of the White House. This proposal addressed the possible level of interest of the White House, and whether or not the meeting would be called a White House Conference. The proposed agenda included: 1) addressing the accomplishments and continuing challenges in nutrition since the 1969 Conference; 2) the role of nutrition and physical activity in confronting the epidemic of overweight and obesity; and 3) the role of nutrition and lifestyle (including physical activity) in meeting the needs of Americans across the lifespan.* (Appendix A)

A public meeting will be held 9:00 a.m. to Noon, December 9, 1999, at the USDA's Jefferson Auditorium. The focus of the public meeting will be public comment (3 minutes per person with advanced registration required), and submission of written testimony, which must be received by December 20, 1999. A DHHS workgroup will be convened after the public comment session. To Nancy Ernst's inquiry about the format of the National Nutrition Summit, Dr. Coates responded that although the format has not been decided, discussions have centered on having both plenary sessions and small break-out sessions.

Discussion about this Summit included questions about its relationship to Healthy People 2010; the CDC/Women's Health Initiative, and community efforts at disease prevention; how to get diverse populations to adopt useful interventions (e.g., community prevention studies about obesity, exercise, and osteoporosis in women); and the relationship to the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. Dr. Hubbard commented that the focus of the Summit is quite diffuse, partly because final plans await further input from both the public and private sectors. It is unlikely all potential topics can be covered in a two-day Conference. Dr. Coates said that although the specific outcomes of the Summit are not yet clarified, the proceedings will be available on both video and web casting.

HEALTHY PEOPLE 2010

The full document is being cleared by DHHS and ODPHP. Comments are due early within the week. Expected changes will not alter the objectives. Overweight is one of the leading health indicators.

The HP 2010 conference edition will be released in January 2000. A final publication is anticipated to follow in about six months. Careful attention must be observed to consistency within the recommendations of the revised *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* in the final version of the Nutrition and Overweight Chapter.

INITIATIVES WITHIN THE OFFICE OF DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS

Dr. Paul Coates introduced three members of the ODS staff, each of whom presented updates on key ODS programs.

1. Botanical Centers - Christine Swanson

The long-term plan is to fund eight dietary supplement research centers, of which four will focus on botanical research. In response to last year's RFA, nine applications were received. Two were funded as Centers, with funding provided by (in addition to ODS), the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, and the Office of Research on Women's Health. A third was funded as a Program Project by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. A "critical mass" (numbers) of centers is needed and will include a goal of training investigators. The lack of incentives for private industry to undertake initiatives in this type of research effort is recognized. ODS will shortly announce the second RFA for these Centers, and is again asking for participation by ICs and Offices at NIH. The RFA will be posted in December, 1999, and applications will be due in April, 2000. The purpose of the RFA is to evaluate biological effects of botanicals and to develop models for study. Four major areas are addressed: 1) identification and characterization; 2) bio-availability and bio-activity; 3) active constituents and mechanisms of action; and 4) Phase I and Phase II clinical studies are within the scope of the RFA.

2. Congressional Interest in ODS -Becky Costello

An unfunded mandate for evaluation of the role (including effectiveness) of chromium in diabetes mellitus was included in House language again this year. A small focused scientific workshop including participants with expertise in diabetes mellitus and metabolism was held November 4, 1999. The questions/topics addressed were:

What is the state of knowledge and limitations in performing basic research studies of chromium, when the exact forms of dietary chromium are unknown;

What measures are currently available to assess chromium status in human populations, given that analytical capabilities are limited and presently there are no bio-markers available to assess the status of chromium in humans;

What information is available from dietary intake studies and from clinical studies regarding chromium intake and supplementation; there are no comprehensive studies determining chromium intake, and intake cannot be predicted from current databases; clinical studies to date are limited in scope; and

Do chromium requirements change with disease state and pathology; data were presented that suggested chromium levels were depleted with aging.

Small-scale, focused clinical studies may be warranted in certain population groups, such as those with glucose intolerance or newly-diagnosed diabetes. Efforts should be directed at developing and/or monitoring functional status indicators, such as insulin resistance or response to an oral glucose load.

In response to a question from Dr. Dan Raiten, NICHD, concerning safety of chromium, it was stated that although chromium may have an oxidative potential in the cell, it appears to have a low toxicity.

3. January 5-6, 2000 Conference - Mary Frances Picciano

In response to another Congressional mandate focusing on the bio-availability of dietary supplements, a conference, *Bioavailability of Nutrients and Other Bioactive Components of Dietary Supplements: Defining the Research Agenda*, has been scheduled for January 5-6, 2000. The Life Sciences Research Office (LSRO) will co-sponsor this meeting and the proceedings will be published as a supplement to the *Journal of Nutrition*. A bibliography about bio-availability will be published in the *Bibliography in Medicine Series* and will be available both as a searchable disc and on the web. A mini-symposium describing the outcome of this Conference will be held by the American Society for Nutritional Sciences in April 2000.

Dr. Dan Raiten, formerly Senior Scientist with the LSRO, now at NICHD, indicated support for the Conference included funding for speaker costs from the American Academy of Pediatrics and CDC, and general funding from USDA, American Home Products, Archer Daniels Midland, Monsanto, ILSI, Leiner Health Products, Mead Johnson, and Smith Kline Beecham, etc.

Dr. Coates suggested travel awards for young investigators to attend this meeting. These awards would provide funding for at least 10 persons in M.S. or Ph.D. post-doctoral training. Publicity for these awards would be on the Web of Science, e-mail, and through selected pharmacology journals. A nominating letter from an advisor or mentor would be required. The award would include \$500 and complementary registration for the meeting.* It was also suggested that the awards be announced in the NIH Guide.

DIETARY REFERENCE INTAKES

Dr. Hubbard listed the status of the DRIs and related publications within the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Academy of Sciences. (See Appendix B for additional information.)

1. The final publication of the "Dietary Reference Intakes for Calcium, Phosphorus, Magnesium, Vitamin D, and Fluoride" is available from National Academy Press.

It is anticipated that the report on the "Dietary Reference Intakes" for Folate and other B Vitamins will be published soon.

3. The report on "Dietary Reference Intakes for Antioxidants and related nutrients is* undergoing final review within the NAS.
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5. Initial meetings have begun concerning the task order on Dietary Reference Intakes for Micronutrients.
6. A task order on Dietary Reference Intakes for Macronutrients is ready and includes consideration of energy intake levels.

WORKSHOP ON ESSENTIAL FATS IN FOOD

In Dr. William Lands' absence, Dr. Sooja Kim, CSR, gave information about a one-day workshop entitled "Essential Fats in Food," planned for March 20, 2000, to be held in the Natcher Building, Conference Room C. This workshop will focus on essential fatty acids and eicosanoids. (Appendix C)

REPORTS FROM NCC MEMBERS AND LIAISONS

NHLBI and NIDDK will present Academic Nutrition Awards in areas related to nutrition and cardiovascular disease, obesity, and/or diabetes mellitus. These grants will help support the development and implementation of medical nutrition curriculums in medical schools. Awards will be made following the February 2000 council meetings. Recognizing the excellence of applications, additional sources of support from other ICs is encouraged.* For more information, contact Elaine Stone (301-435-0382).

FDA has an announcement in the Federal Register about *trans* fatty acids and the related open comment period. (Appendix D)

NCHS:

Ms. Karil Bralostosky made the following announcements.

1. The next NHANES consortium meeting will be held January 12, 2000, Room 1100, Hyattsville, Maryland. (Appendix E) The deadline for submitting proposals for new content for NHANES 2001 is December 31, 1999.* Changes to questions and lab analyses should be submitted by then to Natalie Dupre, (301) 435-0382. The NHANES 99-Dietary Evaluation Study plans to obtain in-person and phone interviews, up through mid-2000. There has been a 96% response rate for the first and second interviews.

4. The defined population (DPHANES) studies of ethnic groups in lower Mississippi delta region was outlined. (Appendix F)